

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16370

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CSCE, SHUM, SOPN, UR, US
SUBJECT: TASS AND SOVIET MEDIA ON THE SHCHARANSKIY,
GINZBURG AND FILATOV TRIALS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 16171, (B) MOSCOW 15997

1. SOVIET NEWS MEDIA THUS FAR HAVE CARRIED NOTHING
ON THE TRIALS OTHER THAN BRIEF TASS ITEMS ON
SHCHARANSKIY AND FILATOV PRINTED IN IZVESTIYA AND
READ ON TELEVISION AND RADIO JULY 10, AND CARRIED
IN PRAVDA AND OTHER MAJOR PAPERS JULY 11.

2. REFTEL A COMMENTED ON THE TASS WIRE ACCOUNTS
OF THE THREE TRIALS AS OF COB JULY 11. THE TASS
MATERIAL APPEARING LATE JULY 11 AND JULY 12 FOLLOWS
THE PATTERN DESCRIBED IN REFTEL A, IN THAT TASS
CONTINUES TO AVOID MENTION OF SPECIFIC U. S.
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JOURNALISTS AND DIPLOMATS AND INDEED HAS NOT YET
MENTIONED THE UNITED STATES AT ALL (WHEREAS SWITZER-
LAND AND THE U.K. HAVE BEEN NAMED --AS COUNTRIES
FROM WHICH SHCHARANSKIY RECEIVED "CURRENCY AND
OTHER REWARDS"). TASS EDITORIALIZING ABOUT THE
GUILT OF SHCHARANSKIY AND GINZBURG (FILATOV
REPORTEDLY PLEADED GUILTY) CONTINUES APACE.

3. ON SHCHARANSKIY:

--TASS CONTINUES TO SPEAK VAGUELY OF SHCHARANSKIY'S ASSISTING "A FOREIGN STATE";

--LATE JULY 11 TASS NAMED VITALIY RUBIN AS SHCHARANSKIY'S "SYMPATHIZER AND ACCOMPLICE IN HOSTILE ACTIVITY", AND CLAIMED THAT RUBIN WAS CONNECTED WITH "A MEMBER OF WESTERN SPECIAL SERVICE (SIC), WHO RECRUITED IN HIS APARTMENT WITNESS LIPAVSKIY";

--ROBERTH TOTH CONTINUES TO BE REFERRED TO AS "AN AGENT OF A MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE, WHO WORKED IN MOSCOW AS A CORRESPONDENT."

4. ON GINZBURG:

--THE "SOLZHENITSYN FUND" IS SPECIFICALLY NAMED; BUT NOTHING IS SAID ABOUT SOLZHENITSYN PERSONALLY;

--TASS MAKES CONCERTED EFFORT TO SMEAR GINZBURG AS A "MORAL AND POLITICAL DEGENERATE".

5. ON FILATOV:
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--TASS CONTINUES TO REFER TO "A FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE", NOTING THAT THIS SERVICE OPERATED IN ALGERIA "UNDER COVER OF AN EMBASSY OF A CAPITALIST STATE";

--AFTER DESCRIBING FILATOV'S RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING, TASS SAYS HE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS BY RADIO FROM "A FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE CENTER, SITUATED ON THE TERRITORY OF ONE OF THE EUROPEAN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES";

--TASS CLAIMS THAT IN MOSCOW HE AGREED TO "A CLANDESTINE PERSONAL MEETING" WITH "AN INTELLIGENCE AGENT WHO WAS IN THE USSR UNDER THE GUISE OF A FOREIGN DIPLOMAT."

6. TASS COVERAGE, AS WELL AS REPORTS FROM OBSERVERS AT THE SHCHARANSKIY AND GINZBURG COURTHOUSES, INDICATE THAT ALL THREE TRIALS WILL LAST AT LEAST THROUGH THURSDAY, JULY 13. MATLOCK

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